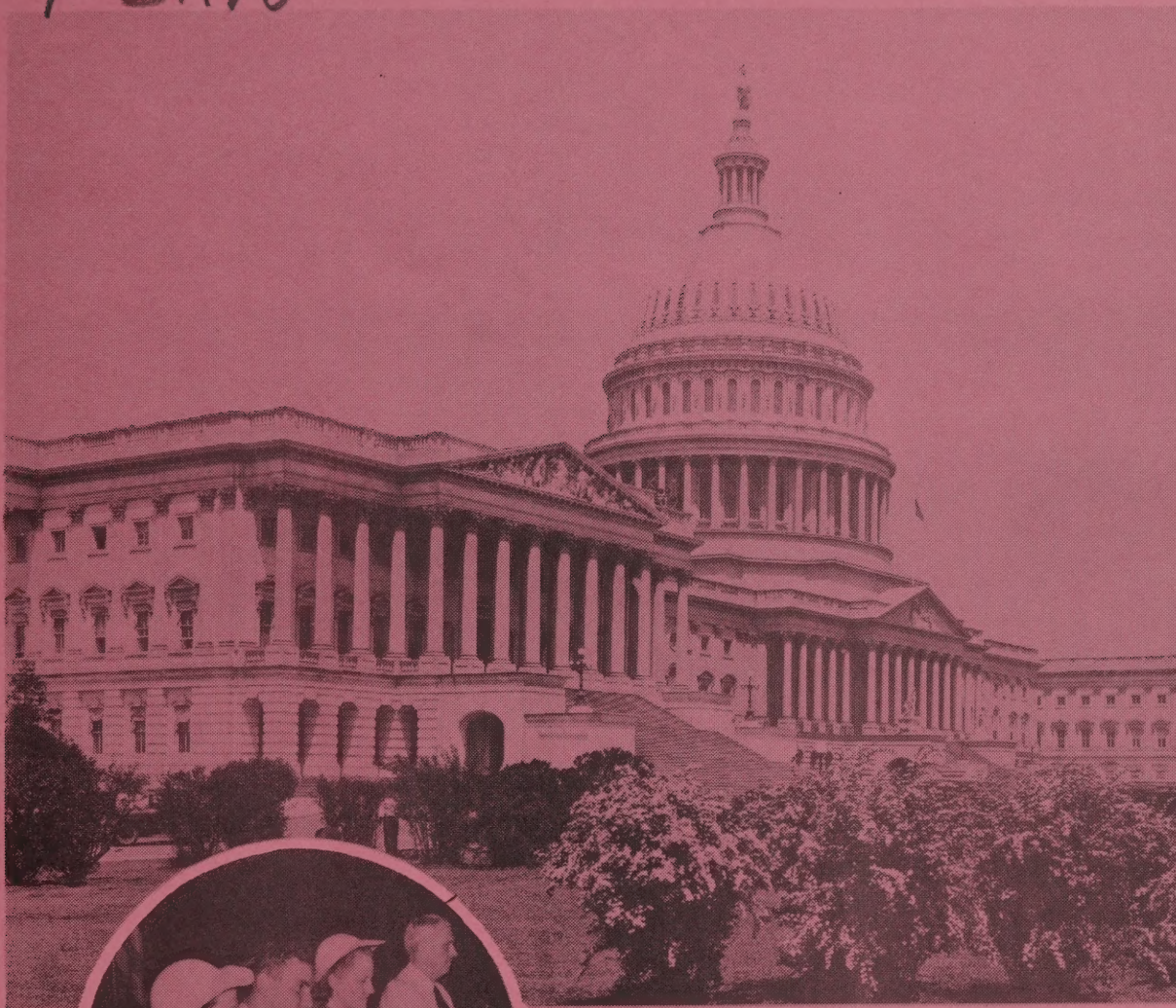


1.913
F3K76



NATIONAL 4-H
CAMP • 1946

Know Your Government

Places you will see

USDA
LIB

769 (5-46)

JUN 19 1946

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
LIBRARY



BOOK NUMBER

1.913

F3K76

598245

GPO 8-7671

ARBU
all

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Extension Service
Washington, 25, D. C.

"KNOW YOUR GOVERNMENT"

Democracy is a government of laws, not of men. But the machinery whereby laws become programs, which are the everyday concern of the people, is made up of men. The Federal Government may be considered, then, as that political organization whereby the people exercise control over public affairs.

Each of us has a right to a certain amount of personal liberty so long as it does not encroach upon the rights of others. In America, some of these inalienable rights are "life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness."

However, to maintain and assure these rights for all, each of us must consent to such control as will preserve the balance between right and wrong, and assume the obligations that each privilege carries with it.

The general purpose of the Federal Government is "to establish justice, insure domestic tranquillity, provide for the common defense, promote the general welfare, and secure the blessings of liberty-----."

To attain these ends Government engages in many activities and performs many functions and services. Among them are the following:

1. Defends the people against foreign aggression.
2. Supports courts of justice.
3. Regulates property rights of individuals.
4. Determines the political rights and duties of its citizens and the privileges of aliens.
5. Coins money.
6. Regulates trade and commerce between the States and between the States and other countries.
7. Maintains national roads and highways.
8. Operates a postal system.
9. Develops sanitary regulations.
10. Promotes public education.
11. Engages in research.

During war governments engage in many other activities. And the extent to which Government should engage in the activities listed, or in others, is always a matter of great concern. You young people must think clearly about what you expect Government to do and what the consequence of any course of action may be.

During National 4-H Club Camp you will have an opportunity to meet many people engaged in governmental affairs. You will hear many of them speak. You will see the buildings in which Government functions are housed. You will see some of the functions of Government in operation. You will also see some of the shrines which remind us of the struggle for freedom and the democratic way of life. In addition, a brief glimpse of the cultural institutions will be made possible as examples of the artistic and other cultural advantages we can enjoy, which enrich our daily life.

The following brief notes have been prepared to help you better understand what you see while studying your Government.

We hope you will ask questions, discuss these matters with your friends, and study some of the material you will receive from time to time. As a result you will "Know Your Government" better.

The Know Your Government Committee

Here are notes on some places you will see while at National 4-H Club Camp:

Historical--

The Capital City
Washington Monument
Lincoln Memorial
Jefferson Memorial
Arlington
Mount Vernon

Legislative--

The Capitol
Library of Congress

Executive--

The Pentagon
The White House
National Agricultural Research Center
Pan American Union

Judicial--

The Supreme Court

Cultural--

Cathedral of St. Peter and St. Paul
Smithsonian Institution
Arts and Industries Building
National Gallery of Art

Industrial--

Chamber of Commerce of the United States

The Capital City

Washington, the Capital City of the United States, is one of the most beautiful of the world's centers of government.

After protracted discussion of the claims of New York, Philadelphia, Baltimore, and other cities, to be named as the Capital, Congress in 1790 empowered President Washington to select a location for a Federal City on the Potomac River. The story goes that the site chosen by him, which became the seat of the city named in his honor, was one to which he had been attracted in his younger days as a surveyor.

To Major Pierre Charles L'Enfant, at the recommendation of President Washington, went the assignment for the task of designing the future Capital of the Nation. It is unlike other American cities in this respect.

The plan was the first and most comprehensive ever designed for a city. It applied to the area 10 miles square set apart as Federal territory and called the District of Columbia. It was designed for a city of 800,000 the size of Paris at the time. The plan was original and was based purely on the existing topography. Although the city is laid out with streets running north and south, east and west, there is superimposed upon these a system of broad diagonals. At the intersections of two or more of these diagonal avenues are located the city's famous squares and circles. In the original plan the avenues were to be 160 feet in width. No city designed for commercial purposes would have avenues so wide--hence the whole plan indicates it was especially designed for the seat of the government of the Nation.

Three commissioners, appointed by the President and approved by the Senate, are responsible for the government of the District of Columbia. Residents of the District do not have the privilege of voting. The Federal Government helps pay for about 20 percent of the cost of the District Government.

It is said of the "Fathers of our country" that they founded better than they knew, in so far as a planned city is concerned.

Washington Monument

This great monument stands just a few blocks from your Department of Agriculture, near the historic Potomac River, in a spacious park south of the White House grounds.

The history of the Washington Monument begins with the close of the Revolutionary War, for in 1783 Congress passed a resolution providing for an equestrian statue of Washington. L'Enfant, in drawing up his plans for the Federal City in 1791, included a statue of Washington on a spot approximately where the Monument now stands. Washington objected to the expenditure from Federal funds, and the matter was dropped. From time to time movements were started to erect a monument to Washington, but not until 1848 did Congress grant a site on public lands. Because of financial difficulties, political bickering, and other handicaps, progress was slow, and in 1876 Congress authorized completion at Government expense.

The Monument was completed in 1884. It is one of the tallest monuments in the world, rising 555 feet 5-1/8 inches above the ground and weighing more than 80,000 tons. An elevator and a flight of 898 steps ascend to a chamber at the 500-foot level. Here you can get an excellent view of the city and the general lay-out of the buildings in which your Government functions. Note the Latin cross formed by the placing of the White House, the Capitol, the Lincoln Memorial, and the Jefferson Memorial.

On the inside of the Monument are 202 carved tribute blocks donated in memory of Washington, by individuals, societies, cities, States, and foreign powers.

Lincoln Memorial

"In this temple, as in the hearts of the people for whom he saved the Union, the memory of Abraham Lincoln is enshrined forever."

When L'Enfant made his first plan, the Potomac River flowed over the present site of the Lincoln Memorial; when Congress extended the plan, the site was a swamp. Today this huge fane, larger than either wing of the Capitol, stands on a circular plateau 45 feet above the surrounding Potomac Park, mirrored in the long reflecting pool in line with the Washington Monument and the Capitol.

The Memorial, the work of Henry Bacon, is constructed of white Colorado marble. At the base it is 188 feet long and 118 feet wide. It rises to a height of 100 feet. Each of its 36 columns represents one of the States of the Union at the time of Lincoln's death, and on the attic wall are 48 festoons emblematic of the States of the Union today. Within is a great hall completely dominated by the colossal figure of Daniel Chester French's Lincoln, said to be the largest statue ever carved. Nineteen feet tall, carved from Georgia marble, it weighs 150 tons. On the north and south sides, respectively, are inscribed the Second Inaugural Address and the Gettysburg Address. The closing lines of the Second Inaugural are surely appropriate today:

"With malice toward none; with charity for all; with firmness in the right, as God gives us to see the right, let us strive on to finish the work we are in; to bind up the Nation's wounds, to care for him who shall have borne the battle, and for his widow and his orphan—to do all which may achieve and cherish a just and lasting peace among ourselves and with all nations."

On the other walls are murals painted by Jules Guerin commemorating the Emancipation and the Reunion.

The hall, formerly lighted only through the great central entrance and by translucent panels of marble, now has 24 powerful floodlights in the attic, the light being directed downward through the ceiling panels toward the statue.

Jefferson Memorial

This memorial is dedicated to the man whose words in the Declaration of Independence have served as a basis for great hope in the hearts of all men-- "...that all men are created equal; that they are endowed by their Creator with certain inalienable rights" As an early champion of the natural and civic rights of the individual, which have remained the principal doctrines of Americanism, Thomas Jefferson will forever be remembered as one of the great American figures.

The architecture of the monument reflects the type of design that he admired in the Pantheon of Rome and the Virginia State Capitol that he helped plan.

Although the pleasant reflections of the Jefferson Memorial seen along the south banks of the Tidal Basin greatly enhance its beauty, the selection of this site was influenced by factors of far greater significance than the purely aesthetic. The importance of Jefferson as one of the great figures in the Nation's history demanded a memorial site of prominence in the central plan of the Capital City and in relation to the other great memorials already built. The location of the Capitol, the White House, and the Mall in accordance with the famous L'Enfant plan, together with the erection of the Washington Monument and Lincoln Memorial on the west axis of the Capitol, long ago established the cardinal points of the city's plan. The lone remaining site in this crosslike scheme was the one selected for the Jefferson Memorial, south of the Tidal Basin, on the south axis of the White House.

Arlington

The Arlington house, usually known as the Custis-Lee Mansion, built in 1802, is linked through its builder, George Washington Parke Custis, the only grandson of Martha Washington, with Mount Vernon and the Washington family, but is more familiarly associated with Robert E. Lee, the beloved Confederate general. Arlington is built along simple colonial lines of stuccoed brick, painted buff and trimmed with white. Standing on the portico with its huge Doric columns, one has a memorable view of the Potomac, the Lincoln Memorial, the Washington Monument, the Capitol, and surrounding buildings.

Here, Robert E. Lee, after his marriage in 1831 to Mary Ann Randolph Custis, daughter of the adopted son of George Washington, lived for 30 years. Occupied by the Union forces, Arlington was one of the key positions in the defense of the Capitol. Restoration and furnishing of the house and other buildings was approved by act of Congress in 1925. Under the supervision of the National Park Service, Arlington is not so much a museum, but rather a home reflecting a period of gentle and gracious living.

Arlington National Cemetery, the largest and most famous of American national burial grounds, is a part of the old Arlington estate. Among the many commemorative monuments in the cemetery, the most important are the Memorial Amphitheater and the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier.

Arlington serves as a tragic reminder of the futility of war, on the one hand, and the cost of freedom in terms of human life, on the other.

National 4-H Club Camp delegates will continue this year the tradition of former delegates and honor those who made the supreme sacrifice, in a ceremony at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier.

Mount Vernon

Mount Vernon, the residence and burial place of the "Father of our Country," is a sacred and beloved shrine of American democracy. It is situated on the banks of the Potomac River, 15 miles from Washington. Here Washington carried on his work as a progressive farmer until called to command the Continental Army. He returned to live happily as a private citizen after the Revolution and his years of service as the first President.

George Washington spent the greater part of his life here. The home and grounds have been restored and are maintained by the Mount Vernon Ladies' Association, which was organized in 1858. The Association purchased the property for \$200,000 from Martha Washington's nephew. The estate, which now comprises 476 acres, was once a part of an area patented to John Washington, who came to America in 1656. The grounds have been landscaped and restored according to Washington's records and advice to his estate manager.

George Washington's father first built a home on this land in 1735. This was destroyed by fire, and Lawrence Washington, half brother of George, rebuilt the house and named the place Mount Vernon after his old commander, Admiral Edward Vernon, of the British Navy. In 1754 the estate passed into the hands of George Washington, who, after his marriage to Martha Dandridge Custis, a wealthy young widow, set about to develop the estate. Despite his many absences from Mount Vernon, it was undoubtedly one of the best-managed estates in the Colonies, and Washington himself was regarded as one of the richest men.

The house is typically Georgian in style, with a broad, pillared portico overlooking the Potomac River. In 1773 the clapboard siding was covered with sand-finish wood, cut to give the appearance of stone blocks.

The Capitol

The Capitol Building, dominating all Washington, stands on the crest of a hill, where cross the north-south and the east-west axes of the Federal City. The Capitol faces the east on a site selected by L'Enfant.

Simple, noble, beautiful, dignified, and graceful are the lines of the Capitol, which reflect the designs of Federal classic architecture. The huge central cast-iron dome crowns a structure 750 feet long by 375 feet wide. Around the base of the drum of the dome is a colonnade of 36 fluted Corinthian columns representing the States in the Union at the time the dome was completed. Surmounting the cap of the dome is a "lantern" decorated with a colonnade of 13 fluted Corinthian columns representing the original States of the Union. On top of the lantern is Thomas Crawford's 19-foot bronze statue of Freedom.

As seen from the east or west, the Capitol is composed of seven units. In the center, directly under the dome, is the rotunda. Flanking it are the original wings. Linked to these wings by short narrow passageways are the extended wings, housing, respectively, the House of Representatives and the Senate.

Entering the Capitol by the central portico from the east through the 10-ton Rogers bronze doors, one comes into the great rotunda, with its canopy, portraying the Apotheosis of Washington, and the 300-foot frieze encircling the rotunda, as well as the paintings of historical interest.

North of the great rotunda is the section formerly used by the Supreme Court, and to the South is Statuary Hall. Beyond the old Supreme Court section is the Senate section with the President's Room. East of Statuary Hall is the House extension.

Library of Congress

The Library of Congress houses the memory of the human race and mirrors "all that mankind has done, thought, gained, or been."

Laws in a democracy must be wisely conceived and intelligently written. The experience of mankind must be called upon. Congressmen representing you and your district want to act on the basis of the best knowledge available. A good library is, therefore, of prime importance. The usefulness of the Library of Congress has grown each year, for it not only serves the lawmakers, but also the Federal agencies, learned institutions, and independent organizations, and research workers and scholars may use its facilities for study. The copyrighting functions are located in the Library.

The Library of Congress, in the world's largest and most elaborate building devoted wholly to library uses, was founded in 1800 by an act appropriating \$5,000 for the purchase of "books for the use of both Houses of Congress." It now has more than 7,300,000 books and pamphlets and 15,300,000 other items, including maps, charts, musical compositions, prints, manuscripts, films, phonograph records, posters, and photographs. Thomas Jefferson's library of more than 6,700 volumes formed the nucleus of the present collection. In addition, the Library maintains a union catalog of 10,000,000 cards representing the holdings of 700 other libraries. Thus the knowledge held in libraries of your community is made available to Congress quickly. A tunnel connects the Library with the Capitol and an endless chain system conveys books back and forth.

The architecture is of the Renaissance order. The exterior walls are of New Hampshire granite. When the first building was erected, in the 1890's 50 masters of painting and sculpture worked together to make it a treasure house of the best contemporary American art.

The grand stair hall of the entrance pavilion is of Italian white marble. It leads to the great rotunda, which is the reading room. To the right are the library rooms of Senators and Representatives; to the left, the rooms for the blind and the conservatory of music.

Outstanding among the many interesting exhibits are the originals of the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution of the United States, a copy of the Gutenberg Bible, and a quartet of stringed instruments made by Antonio Stradivari.

The Pentagon

The Pentagon--the world's largest office building--was designed in a race against time. It was planned for efficiency, not beauty. Its immediate function has been to house those who planned the grand strategy involved in winning the global war. Its massive fortresslike outline suggests at once its military function. The effect is Hellenic in its simplicity and harmony, modern in its lack of curves, its ridged formality, and its vastness.

4-H members will be interested to know that the Pentagon stands on the ground formerly used by the United States Department of Agriculture for agricultural research. It covers 34 acres and houses 32,000 workers. There are 17-1/2 miles of corridors. It is not only a five-sided structure, but it also contains five buildings, one within the other. It is three times larger than the Empire State Building. At one stage in the construction of this building 15,000 men were employed. The switchboard can handle 90,000 calls a day.

The Pentagon was constructed during 1941 and 1942 for the purpose of centralizing the Army Headquarters staff of 24,000 which up to then was housed in 17 different buildings. Vast as the building is, it houses only those agencies of the War Department which have the greatest need for centralization. Among these are the offices of the Secretary, the Under Secretary, the Assistant Secretary, the general staff of the Army Air Forces and the Army Service Forces, and The Adjutant General.

The White House

The Executive Mansion is not only the home of the President. It also contains the many offices required by the Chief Executive and his staff. The Cabinet meets here and makes many important decisions of Government affecting everyone. Here, too, the President holds his press conferences. The White House has been the focal point for many world-famous conferences and decisions, which were a part of global strategy.

The site of the White House was selected by President Washington. In 1792 the cornerstone was laid, but it was not until the latter part of November 1800, the year Washington became the seat of the Government, that President and Mrs. John Adams moved in--the first presidential family to occupy the White House. At that time it was incomplete, and much discomfort was experienced, particularly as to heating and lighting. The East Room was used as a place to dry the family wash. The White House was not finished until several years later.

In 1814, when the White House was burned by the British, Dolly Madison cut the portrait of George Washington from its frame. The painting, a Gilbert Stuart, now hangs in the East Room.

Other interesting rooms are the State Dining Room, the scene of brilliant State functions; the Blue Room---the President's reception room---the walls of which are covered with rich blue corded silk, and the window hangings being of blue; the Red Room, the walls and window draperies of which are of red velvet; and the Green Room, which has green velvet on the walls and a green rug bearing the coat of arms of the United States.

National Agricultural Research Center

You may wonder why the Federal Government spends money to do research on agriculture and home economics. The answer is that for more than 100 years your representatives in Congress have believed that the welfare of the whole country depends upon a sound and prosperous agriculture.

The kind of research done at Beltsville and at the State agricultural experiment stations has helped greatly to increase the efficiency of farm production. It also helps consumers. In fact, so much of this research benefits consumers--by improving the quality of the foods they buy--that it is hard to say just how much of our research is done for farmers and how much is done for the general public. We do know, though, that money spent for research frequently proves to be a most profitable investment. For example, an investment of \$10,000 in research to develop a better control for internal parasites of livestock now returns an annual dividend of \$10,000,000 to livestock growers and the public.

The Nation's farm-production plant is made up of more than 6 $\frac{1}{2}$ million units, because there are that many farms in the United States. Only a few of these are large enough to support a research organization. For this reason the State and Federal Governments have been willing to invest funds in research designed to make farming more efficient and farm life more satisfying.

At Beltsville, Maryland, therefore, the United States Department of Agriculture maintains a large proving ground known as the National Agricultural Research Center. On this farm of approximately 14,000 acres, testing projects have been established by the following Bureaus: Animal Industry; Dairy Industry; Plant Industry, Soils, and Agricultural Engineering; Entomology and Plant Quarantine; Human Nutrition and Home Economics; Agricultural and Industrial Chemistry; Forest Service; Soil Conservation Service; and Production and Marketing Administration.

The house in which the director of the Center lives was built about 1785 for John C. Herbert, of the Revolutionary fame. The greater part of the land, used as a proving ground by the Research Center, originally belonged to the Snowden family and was known as Birmingham Manor.

Pan American Union

The Pan American Union is an international organization created and maintained by 21 American countries, including the United States. It has for its purpose the development of closer cultural, commercial, and financial relations among the member countries and the promotion of friendly intercourse and peace. The architectural significance of the Pan American buildings lies in the blending of North and South American styles, symbolic of a common understanding of the republics of the Western Hemisphere.

Interesting features of the Pan American buildings are: The inner patio in which tropical plants are grown; the Gallery of Patriots; the Hall of the Americas; the "Blue Aztec" garden connecting the main building with the annex; and the garden loggia, the inner walls of which are lined with varished blue tile and designs taken from the holy city of early Mexican civilization.

The Supreme Court

This is the highest court of the land, and the most remarkable tribunal in the history of jurisprudence. Although the Court was established by the Constitution, its organization was not specified. This is done by Congress. Originally the Court consisted of 6 justices, but it is now composed of 9. These are appointed by the President. They may retire after 10 years of service or at the age of 70 years. Each justice is assigned to one or two of the 10 judicial districts into which the country is divided. In the early days, these jurists would travel "on circuit," hearing cases as they went. Now they sit in session, between October and May, in the stately building you will see.

Cases are argued by attorneys for clients, and at least six of the justices must be present. Then the issues are discussed by the justices in closed sessions. The decisions reached by a majority of the members are read in public. Any jurist disagreeing may prepare a dissenting opinion.

The Court has jurisdiction only in cases defined by the Constitution. They are of two general kinds. First are cases of original jurisdiction, involving ambassadors, ministers, and consuls, or in which a State is a party. The second kind are those in which the Court has appellate jurisdiction. That is, the majority of cases are those which are appealed from lower Federal courts or the highest State courts, where a Federal question is involved.

The most unique feature of the Court is its authority to review questions of the constitutionality of the acts of Congress and render final decision. This function has given rise to the statement by former Chief Justice Hughes, "We are under a Constitution, but the Constitution is what the judges say it is."

Cathedral of St. Peter and St. Paul

The Cathedral of St. Peter and St. Paul, more popularly called the Washington Cathedral was chartered by Congress in 1893 for the "promotion of religion, education, and charity." Thus, in a sense, this is a national institution.

The Cathedral is situated on Mount St. Albans, from which height a magnificent view of the city is obtained. Although construction has been going on for 35 years, the cathedral is not half completed. Already \$12,000,000, contributed by more than 71,000 people, has been spent upon the project. It is estimated that \$13,000,000 more will be needed to complete the building. 4-H Clubs have contributed several stones in the building to date.

The cathedral, built in the style of fourteenth-century Gothic architecture, ranks among the greatest ecclesiastical structures of this country and among the 10 largest in the world. It is being built, like all cathedrals, in the form of a large cross; the apse, choir, and nave form the stem of the cross, while the north and south transepts serve as the arms.

Following the precedent established in Westminster Abbey, many of the Nation's illustrious dead will be entombed in the cathedral. Among those now resting there are President Woodrow Wilson and Admiral George Dewey.

Smithsonian Institution

The Smithsonian Institution is unique among scientific establishments. It administers seven Government bureaus, yet its own activities are supported by means of the income from its private endowment fund. This fund was left in trust to the United States by an Englishman who had never been in America, and who knew no one here. James Smithson was an English scientist who, in 1826, willed his fortune to the United States to found an establishment, the purpose of which he stated as "the increase and diffusion of knowledge among men." After years of debate, Congress agreed on what Smithson's intentions were. Today the threefold program of the Institution consists of (1) increasing knowledge by research, (2) diffusing it through publications, and (3) exchanging results with other nations.

The Institution is not a Federal agency. It is administered by a Board of Regents made up of the Vice President and Chief Justice, ex officio, three Senators, three Representatives, and six citizens. The executive officer is a secretary selected by the Board.

Arts and Industries Building.--In this building are the Hall of History containing mementoes of famous Americans; Lindbergh's plane Spirit of St. Louis; the United States flag which inspired Francis Scott Key to compose The Star-Spangled Banner; the gowns worn by the mistresses of the White House; exhibits relating to coins, military and naval history, paints, mining, textiles, foods, wood, transportation, and communication.

National Gallery of Art

The National Gallery of Art is a bureau of the Smithsonian Institution. The Gallery was erected with funds given by the late Andrew W. Mellon. It is one of the largest marble structures in the world, the exterior walls being of rose-white Tennessee marble.

The central architectural feature of the interior is the rotunda under the dome, which is supported by 24 dark-green marble columns. Both the diameter of the rotunda and the height to the top of the dome measure 100 feet. In each of the two wings of the building is a garden court where visitors may rest on their tour of the galleries. Each court has a colonnade of 16 monoliths of Indiana limestone and, in the center, a fountain surrounded by plants and flowers.

At present, there are about 900 paintings and pieces of sculpture in the Gallery. The two great collections now on display were provided by Andrew W. Mellon and Samuel H. Kress.

Chamber of Commerce of the United States

The Chamber of Commerce building, which is of modernized classic Greek type, occupies the site of the old red-brick mansion known for many years to the people of the Capital and tourists who visited it as the one-time home of Daniel Webster. Designed by Cass Gilbert, the architect of the Supreme Court Building, it typifies the present period in national industrial and commercial development.

The building was designed primarily as a gathering place--a common center--for the branches of trade and industry, the many threads of which are drawn together in the national chamber's membership.

The 4-H Club party is to be held in the Council Chamber, a lofty room with teakwood floors, high walls of French Craizanne marble, and a ceiling decorated by Ezra Winter. Between the beams are bas-relief panels and a series of inscriptions setting forth the outstanding achievement of explorers who blazed the paths of trade.

